

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 SEPTEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Security Committee, Airport — The Security Arrangements Committee held its first meeting south of Beirut and decided to establish a joint center to monitor and consolidate the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. Public Works Minister Pierre al-Khuri subsequently approved a request by the Lebanese Army representative on the Security Committee to delay reopening Beirut International Airport until the committee had ensured that the step conforms with the "necessary security measures," the radio said. The decision to postpone reopening the airport followed warnings by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) that the Druze fighters would "confront" any attempts by the government to reopen the airport on 29 September. The warnings, reported by Radio Monte Carlo and Damascus television, said the PSP cannot allow the airport to be reopened before a comprehensive security settlement is reached since the government had used it as a military base for the Lebanese Air Force planes which raided PSP positions in the Ash-Shuf.

Military/Security Situation — Lebanese Army positions in 'Aramun and Khaldah came under mortar fire 28 September but the Army abided by the cease-fire and did not respond, Beirut radio reported. In Beirut a French colonel was wounded by a hand grenade attack and a Lebanese officer was wounded by an explosion in the Druze quarter, according to the radio. Israeli and Syrian forces exchanged fire in the Al-Biq'a valley, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently reported. Voice of Lebanon reported earlier that the Syrians have installed SAM-8's in the Bhamdun area.

Meanwhile, a PSP military source cited by Damascus radio claimed that the Lebanese Army lost 300 men killed in the recent fighting with the PSP. In a recent interview with *Le Monde*, the PSP military commander said around 900 Lebanese soldiers, mainly Druze and Shi'ites, had deserted from the Army. He also revealed that 150 wounded PSP fighters are receiving treatment in Moscow.

Soviet support for Syria and the Lebanese opposition was deplored by President Amin al-Jumayyil in an interview with Italy's *La Repubblica*. Soviet specialists among the Syrian forces in Lebanon are training National Salvation Front militias in the use of modern weapons, the president charged.

Further Reaction to Cease-Fire — The cease-fire has been "positively assessed" in the Soviet Union but lasting peace in Lebanon is impossible without an end to the Israeli occupation and to "crude interference" in Lebanese affairs by the United States and its NATO allies, TASS announced. Meanwhile, the Guardians of the Cedars, a small faction in the Phalangist-dominated Lebanese Forces, announced their rejection of the cease-fire because it gives "carte blanche" to Syria, Voice of Lebanon reported.

Syrian Contacts — President Hafiz al-Asad received the visiting Libyan Armed Forces commander, who delivered a message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi concerning the current challenges facing Lebanon, JANA reported. The Libyan delegation also discussed the further strengthening of relations between the Libyan and Syrian forces during separate talks with the Syrian defense minister, SANA noted. Meanwhile, in a speech to the General Assembly reported by Damascus radio, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam called for the withdrawal of the multinational forces from Lebanon. Khaddam also discussed the Lebanon crisis with his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti, according to ANSA.

PLO Affairs

During a meeting with Palestinian fighters who succeeded in breaking out of the Syrian siege of Fatah forces in the Al-Hirmil area, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the PLO is eager to avoid any clashes with the Syrians, North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio reported. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir had earlier visited the besieged Fatah forces, the radio said. A PLO spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo announced that all the besieged forces were able to escape to Tripoli, but Baghdad Voice of PLO and San'a' Voice of Palestine radios said that Palestinian forces in Al-Hirmil were still under siege and that talks with the Syrians had proved fruitless.

Meanwhile, the assistant leader of the PFLP-GC blamed 'Arafat for the recent "massacre" of 12 PFLP-GC men in the Al-Baddawi camp while the DFLP denied "fabricated reports" that the Syrians ordered DFLP, PFLP, and other Palestinian forces to move northward from the Al-Biq'a valley, according to Damascus television and radio. 'Arafat alleged that Syria has forced Palestinian fighters to leave the Al-Biq'a within the framework of the Lebanese cease-fire agreement, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Egypt

Expressing dismay over Israeli practices in the West Bank during a speech to the General Assembly in New York broadcast by Cairo radio, President Husni Mubarak urged Israel to change its "dangerous" policy of encouraging settlements in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights and declared that the policy might make "Arab-Israeli coexistence impossible."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Referring to aid given to Iraq by Gulf countries in an interview with IRNA, Defense Minister Mohammad Salimi warned that Iran could stop the aid any time it wished and that its patience is not limitless.

Meanwhile, Iraqi citizens residing in the Gulf region may buy an exemption from military service, according to an official Iraqi decree cited by the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan*.

Western Sahara

SDAR leader Mohamed Abdelaziz expressed hopes that the willingness expressed in a UN speech by Moroccan King Hassan II to abide by a referendum on the Western Sahara indicates a change in Morocco's position on the disputed territory, Algiers radio reported. He urged Morocco to begin direct negotiations with the Polisario.

In a separate development, two Libyan warships visited the port of Tangier, according to MAP.

Pakistan

Karachi radio called voting in the Punjab local elections "peaceful and orderly," while Delhi radio reported violence in Rawalpindi as police used batons and tear gas to disperse over 100 women who attempted to occupy a polling station.

Afghanistan

Noting that "some progress" had been achieved in the last round of talks in Geneva, Deputy Foreign Minister Servar Jures declared that the DRA is willing to hold talks "without preliminary conditions" with Pakistani Government representatives. In an interview with an MTI correspondent, the official also firmly rejected Pakistani claims that the DRA Air Force recently bombed Pakistani villages.

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Official Cited on Readiness To Talk With Pakistan
LD281945 Budapest MTI in English 1745 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Kabul, September 28 (MTI) — "The Afghan Government is prepared to hold talks without preliminary conditions with the representatives of the Government of Pakistan," states Servar Jures, Afghan deputy minister of foreign affairs, in interview given to MTI special correspondent in Kabul.

The politician stated that at the last round of Afghan-Pakistani talks held under the mediation of the commissioner of the U.N. general secretary, some progress has been achieved in three issues, including the stopping of interference launched from Pakistani territories, international guarantees on the curbing of new interference into Afghan internal affairs and the problem of the so-called Afghan refugees.

The deputy foreign minister stated that the commissioner of the U.N. general secretary will visit the region in the near future to continue mediation between the Afghan, Pakistani and Iranian governments.

On the present state of Afghan-Pakistani relations, Servar Jures stated: "The increase in internal tension in Pakistan forced the Islamabad leadership to make efforts for driving international and public attention from the internal problems of the country. "On behalf of his government, the deputy foreign minister firmly rejected the Pakistani statement that the Afghan airforce would have bombed Pakistani territories.

In conclusion the Afghan deputy foreign minister stated: "I hope that, recognizing realities, the representatives of the Iranian leadership will open talks with the representatives of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which has established diplomatic relations with more than 70 countries."

Foreign Minister Departs Cuba for UNGA Session
LD282314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, who went to Havana for a friendly and official visit at the invitation of Isidoro Octavio Malmierca Peoli, minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, ended his visit to this country and left for New York to take part in the 38th UN General Assembly session.

At the end of Shah Mohammad Dost's visit to Cuba, a joint communique between Afghanistan and Cuba was issued.

BAKHTAR Reports Communique
LD290531 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 29 Sep 83

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 28, BAKHTAR — The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Cuba with deep concern noted the worsening of the international situation as a result of the irresponsible policy of the present U.S. Administration which seeks a global confrontation and the continuation of the arms race.

This is said in an Afghan-Cuban joint communique published here today after conclusion of official visit of friendship to Cuba of Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA.

The foreign affairs ministers of Afghanistan and Cuba, the communique added, expressed their full support for the peace efforts that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have made to counteract the threats of war that loom over mankind, and they emphasized the danger posed to world peace by NATO's decisions to deploy U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The two ministers held official talks in which they commended the fact that the militant solidarity and friendship between the peoples of both countries were being permanently extended and strengthened on the basis of co-operation and mutual support in spite of the difficulties and foreign threats posing against their countries.

The foreign ministers noted the importance attained by the Movement of Non-aligned Countries and expressed their satisfaction over the results obtained in the 7th summit conference of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, held in New Delhi last March.

Both ministers went on record as favouring the normalization of the situation in Asia, the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations in that continent and the restoration of a climate of peace based on the joint efforts of the states themselves.

The two foreign ministers supported the efforts undertaken to make the Indian ocean a zone of peace and called on the United States to dismantle its military bases in that area. They supported Mauritius' demands that its sovereignty over the Chagos islands, including Diego Garcia island, be restored.

Both parties were aware of the serious threat posed to Central America by the United States' gunboat policy, warlike actions and acts of intervention — that, with the present U.S. Administration, have exacerbated the already convulsed situation in the region.

The two parties fully supported the struggle that the three Indochinese countries — Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea — are waging to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of their respective peoples against U.S. Imperialism in collusion with other reactionary forces.

The two parties noted that the situation in the Near East was further exacerbated by the aggressive, criminal policy applied by Israel and the United States against the Palestinian, Lebanese and other Arab peoples. They called for the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces that have remained in Lebanon and of the U.S. troops, whose interventionist role in the internal affairs of that country is becoming ever more evident.

Both parties felt that the visit of the minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan would contribute to the future development of the cooperation between the two countries.

Defense Minister Observes Air Force Exercise

*LD282058 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT
28 Sep 83*

[All ranks as heard]

[Text] To enhance the combat readiness of the units of the Air and Air Defense Forces, a preplanned program and operational exercise by the Air Defense Force rocket unit was successfully carried out in Lowgar Province.

Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of national defense, took part in the exercise. Brigadier General Nazar Mohammad, commander in chief of the Air and Air Defense Force, and the political head of the Air and Air Defense Forces were also present.

The operational exercise was carried out according to plan, and airborne targets were hit by rockets.

At the end of the exercise, the minister of national defense met with participants in the exercise and distributed gifts to a number of them who had displayed capability.

Subsequently, the minister of national defense and his entourage left for Bagram to visit an (?aircraft) repair shop.

Electric Energy Minister Returns From CSSR

*LD282327 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
28 Sep 83*

[Text] Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of electric energy, who officially visited Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the CSSR minister of fuel and power, returned today to Kabul.

During his visit, he held talks on broadening cooperation between the two countries in the energy sphere and concluded a protocol in this respect.

He was welcomed at Kabul Airport by Public Health Minister Nabi Kamyar [as heard], a deputy minister and officials of the Ministry of Electric Energy, and representatives of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Attacks on Soviet Convoys

*BK290403 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
29 Sep 83*

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have attacked two Soviet-Karmal military convoys, inflicting heavy loss of life and damaging tanks and other vehicles. These convoys were trying to carry supplies through the Lowgar Valley to Paktia and [name indistinct] Provinces. Both military convoys were forced to return to Kabul as a result of which supplies for outer parts of the two provinces had to be sent by plane.

According to another report, Soviet MIG jet fighters bombarded (Daulat) village east of Paghman and fired rockets. This was in retaliation for the mujahidin attack on nearby military posts. No reports on casualties or damage have been received.

Punjab Voting Termed 'Peaceful, Very Orderly'

*BK281647 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
28 Sep 83*

[Excerpt] Polling for local council Muslim seats was held in the Punjab this morning. The polling began at 0800 and continued until 1600 without any break. Voters present at the polling stations before 1600 were allowed to cast their votes after the scheduled polling time.

Radio Pakistan representatives reported from various parts of the province that people showed great enthusiasm in casting their votes. According to their reports, polling was held in a peaceful and very orderly manner.

The chairman of the provincial election authority, Mr Justice Mahbub Ahmed, told the Radio Pakistan Lahore representative that he was very impressed by the way the voters and the staff of the polling stations have observed law and order and shown keen interest in the polling for the local bodies elections. According to his estimate, the ratio of polling was very high.

Rawalpindi Violence Reported

*BK290359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
29 Sep 83*

[Text] In Pakistan, elections to local bodies concluded in Punjab Province yesterday. Reports say police used batons and tear gas to disperse over 100 women who occupied a polling station in Rawalpindi. The first phase of local elections in Sind takes place today.

Polling Continues in Sind Province

*BK290926 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT
29 Sep 83*

[Text] Polling in the first phase of local bodies elections continues in Sind. The entire Karachi division and Hyderabad, Thatta, Badin, Shikarpur, and Jacobabad districts and the Kotri subdivision of Dadu district, and (Thana Bolakhan) are included in areas where polling is being held today. Voting in the rest of the province will be held on Sunday.

Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi this morning inspected a polling station in Karachi and witnessed voting there. The governor told the Radio Pakistan's Karachi correspondent that the administration has taken steps so the voters can cast their votes in a peaceful atmosphere. He said candidates and voters have expressed satisfaction in that the atmosphere is completely calm and votes are being cast without any fear or pressure.

Radio Pakistan's Hyderabad correspondent reports that great enthusiasm was noted among the voters.

Talks Held on Soviet Aid for Oil, Gas Search

*BK290516 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
29 Sep 83*

[Text] Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Retired Major General Rao Farman Ali has held talks in Moscow on the possibility of technical and financial aid from the Soviet Union in locating oil and gas reserves in Pakistan. He held separate talks with the Soviet minister for land [as received] and the first deputy chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Committee.

Defense Minister on Arms Self-Sufficiency, Aid to Iraq
LD290107 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Iran's Defence Minister Colonel Mohammad Salimi said here today that the Islamic Republic is determined to bolster its defence capability insofar as possible by relying on local resources in order to cope with potential threats against the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The defence minister who was speaking in an interview to IRNA on the occasion of the War Week, noted also that internal production of arms in Iran is currently sufficient to meet the country's needs at the battlefronts. Excerpts from his interview with IRNA.

"Our arms policy is inspired by the dictates of the holy Koran. We are determined to make the best possible use of our resources and acquire our needed machinery in order to make Iran a great power in the region. In our pursuit of power, however, we are not prompted by an ambition to bulldoze others, but rather by a determination to thwart the threatening maneuvers against the Islamic Revolution.

"The various sections of the arms industries provide a significant support to our warfronts in the areas of mechanics, navigation, electronics, research and development, and missile and marine technology. Currently we have three light as well as heavy ammunitions production lines, two mortar production lines, another project for manufacturing the final parts of G-3 guns, and for repairing two types of Katyusha missiles and RPG's, and also another for manufacturing anti-personnel grenades. We also produce chain treads for army tanks.

"Also sometime ago the battery production factories of 'Nur' were inaugurated. The factories produce 2,400,000 batteries part of which is marketed internally and a surplus is exported. We also manufacture all types of IC's and capacitors and equipments for directing artillery fire.

"In the area of aircraft industries we have achieved significant success by developing a capability for producing sophisticated parts of airplanes, installing certain aircraft ammunitions and weapons such as aircraft guns and missiles upon helicopters for boosting our combat efficiency. We have also developed a capability to reconstruct the brake mechanism of F-14 aircraft which excels its original make....

"(On the future of the Iraq-Iran war): The future of the war is as bright as sunlight. The imminent triumph of our combatants are manifest throughout our battlefronts. In the wake of the Val Fajr-2 and -3 operations we liberated strategic areas from the occupation of enemy forces and the enemy's offensive capacity was largely reduced. Currently the Ba'thist forces are confused in the warfronts. God willing, by their valour and arms, our combatants will say the last word in the battlefronts....

"(On Baghdad's dependence upon external aid): Baghdad is wholly dependent upon the West as well as the Eastern bloc militarily. The tyrannical world powers are hopeful to keep Saddam in power by rushing most sophisticated hardware to Baghdad, whereas we contend that a government cannot rely on its stockpile of arms for its vitality and survival. We believe an

army becomes triumphant depending upon the morale and devotion of its troops....Today the world countries emulate one another in their rushing of arms to Sadddam Husayn. Naturally they care for Saddam, and not for peace. If they really wanted peace they could have it by stopping their military aids to Saddam.

"Not only the superpowers, but even some of the Persian Gulf states are liberal in their aids to Saddam Husayn. We have in our possession full lists of aids to Saddam by the heads of the Persian Gulf states. We can stop their aids to Baghdad anytime we decide to. We have refused to do so only in the interest of the countries of the region. Our neighbours should bear in mind, however, that our patience is not limitless, and that they would be much better advised not to do anything which might add to the present list of charges against them, and check themselves against indulging any further in their acts, or else we will be impelled to disclose to the peoples in their own countries the lists of their aids to the Baghdad regime.

Supreme Defense Council Discusses Future War Plans
GF290620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 83

[Text] On the last day of War Week, the Supreme Defense Council held a meeting last evening, which was chaired by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. Other members also participated in this meeting.

While reviewing the situation at the warfronts, matters related to the future plans for conducting the war were discussed and views exchanged. Decisions were made at the meeting.

After the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, gave an account of the proceedings of the meeting to our correspondent and also spoke on matters related to the security of the Persian Gulf; the Strait of Hormuz; strengthening defense capabilities and maintaining the defense and military strength of the country; purchase of arms; results of War Week; reaction to the latest warning of the president to the Persian Gulf region countries; Iran's views on the latest threats of the Western countries that they will deploy warships for the control of the Persian Gulf; reaction of the Islamic Republic Government regarding the continuance of military and economic aid to the Iraqi Zionist regime; results of the latest visit to the war-stricken areas by the head of the committee of the Red Cross organization; and problems related to the cease-fire in Lebanon. Details will be given in our later news bulletins.

Majlis Speaker Comments on War, Achievements
GF281830 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today that the Islamic combatants would shortly put an end to the Iraqi imposed war and rid the region of the scourge of Saddam.

Speaking to a group of Islamic defenders of southern frontlines, the Majlis speaker said that the future of war would settle many issues in the region adding that the anxious eyes of enemies of Islam were fixed on the fronts. It occupied the center stage of several issues such as the future of the Islamic Republic, the region and also of the history of the present era, he added. If the Islamic combatants continue their advances as they have so far, we would reach a point that Saddam would become completely impotent and should either surrender and accept his death or continue fighting which means the destruction of his forces.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defence Council further continued that the global oppression was expecting that Saddam would take over the role Iran played during the defunct shah. By making Saddam the gendarme of the region, it wanted to gather the small countries under the cover of Iraqi [word indistinct] he said, adding that Saddam was also supposed to be a means of protecting the Zionist regime from the wrath of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Majlis speaker hoped that the fronts against the Zionist regime would extend from Syria to Iran through the collapse of Saddam.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that friends or enemies have fixed their eyes on the fronts and that the forces at war held the levers of history in their hands and that such a fateful and decisive event had been never seen. He said that Iraqi Ba'thist regime, reactionary and imperialistic forces did not achieve any of their goals except engaging Iran in a war thus hoping to exhaust its resources in defending the country instead of building up the country. Yet, he stressed, they were involved and sustained damages more than us in this war.

Enumerating the achievements during the Iraqi imposed war, the imam's representative said that presently there were hundreds of thousands of trained people from military point of view in Iran and that it would have been impossible to educate so many in garrisons. He stated that after three years, the world realised that Iran had grown stronger since the start of war, and its economy had been stabilised. The world now considered the Islamic Republic as a powerful country which resisted against all super-powers.

Referring to the privileges Saddam enjoyed during the war, he pointed out the financial assistance given by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Persian Gulf countries as well as the military aids from the Soviet Union, the United States and their subervient governments and the dispatch of Egyptian, Sudanese, Jordanian and Yemenese soldiers to the war fronts.

The imam's representative said that the world oppression announced all Iran's victories for Saddam through its false propaganda, but the world knew today that the Iranian nation resisted against the enemies who were armed to teeth and surmounted its problems. He continued by saying that the Iranian nation considered its victories due to the steadfastness and constructiveness of Islam.

Referring to the interview of AFP with Iranian young combatant captured by Iraqi Ba'thist executioners, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that the news imperialism was entrapped in its

own propaganda move and that the words of a single young combatant crushed the enemy and shook the oppressive world.

He concluded by saying that the Iranian people went to battle fronts for the cause of God, faith, religion and humanity and fought against enemies. We must [word indistinct] this event properly in order to give further respect and dignity to Islam in the world and the region, he said.

Commander: Iran Has Power To Block Hormuz Strait *GF281812 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Sep 83*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — [Words indistinct] Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colonel 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi, today said that the battle with the Ba'thist enemies would be taken to Baghdad, if necessary for the realisation of the rightful demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Colonel Shirazi, who was speaking at a ceremony held for [word indistinct] of the military cadets graduating from 01 military training center, pointed out the military potentialities to the Islamic combatants in blocking the Strait of Hormuz. [Words indistinct] that the world conspirators must have reached the conclusion after three years of imposed war that the Islamic revolution of Iran meant what it said, adding that Iran had the power to block the Strait of Hormuz at the command of the commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, Imam Khomeyni.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had surmounted many plots of the enemies of Islam through the resolute will of the Islamic nation and the bravery and steadfastness of the Islamic combatants. He added that, God willing, the Islamic Republic of Iran would do away with the Iraqi imposed war which was the latest of conspiracies for uprooting the Islamic revolution.

IRGC Minister Warns Against Attacks on Oil Fields *GF281820 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 28 Sep 83*

[Text] Rasht, Sept. 28, IRNA — The innumerable enemies of the Islamic Iran who are all satanic powers are terribly afraid because of the victory which is close at hand for Iran in the Iraqi imposed war. They are trying to paralyse Iran in the economic front, said Mohsen Rafiqdust, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) minister here today.

The IRGC minister who is currently here to participate in the seminar commemorating the war, made these statements at a press conference here. He further said that the enemies of Islam have created an uproar — that the delivery of Super Etendard planes to the Iraqi regime and the possibility of their being used to attack Iranian oil fields will deprive Iran of its oil resources and its foreign exchange thus forcing Iran to surrender.

Continuing, the IRGC minister said that those who wanted to resort to these acts were deeply mistaken. He furthermore reiterated the stance of the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis the jeopardising of its economic resources in the Persian Gulf and Oman

Sea. (Iran would blockade Hormuz Strait and not allow any oil to be exported). The IRGC minister said that if Iran's oil resources were targeted, the world would be deprived of the Persian Gulf oil.

Speaking further on the Iraqi imposed war, Mohsen Rafiqdust said that the Islamic Republic announced whenever its combatants launched an offensive that it was not desirous of continuing war, but only wanted to realise its legal rights and the conditions laid down by the Supreme Defense Council.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communiqué No 1,474

LD281744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Communiqué No 1,474 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the anniversary of the martyrdom of the brave commanders of Islam, Lieutenant General Fallahi, Brigadier General Namjoy, Brigadier General Fakuri, and Brothers Kolahduz and Jahanara, we pay tribute to the pure souls of those sincere beloved ones who were the true followers of Imam Husayn — peace be upon him — and his blood-sacrificing deeds, and we beseech God Almighty to grant the final victory to the Armed Forces of Islam.

On the western fronts, in executing defensive operations and by firing on enemy units, the Islamic combatants yesterday inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. Exchanges of fire continued on the border fronts of Bakhtaran, and our forces' intense fire destroyed several trenches and five trucks carrying Iraqi troops.

In the Marivan operational sector, our combat units pounded enemy installations on the other side of the border and set fire to several of the mercenaries' loaders. Our forces also fired effectively on enemy positions in the vicinity of Panjwin and Sayyid Sadiq highway, damaging several of the Saddamists' mortars. A number of Iraqi troops were killed in this region.

Our forces' fire on the southern fronts yesterday disrupted the enemy's engineering activities and logistic operations and foiled the efforts of the Saddamist patrol groups to penetrate the defensive positions of the forces of Islam. On one of the southern fronts, one of our combat patrol groups clashed with the enemy elements. In this clash, a number of Iraqi troops were killed and our forces captured their arms and ammunition as booty. Our combat patrol group returned unharmed to its base.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under sporadic long-range artillery fire. As a result of the shelling, a residential building was demolished and some of the city's palm groves were set on fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqi Planes Violate Ilam Airspace 28 September

LD290056 Tehran IRNA in English 2017 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Ilam, Sept. 28, IRNA — Two aggressor Iraqi planes, which violated Ilam's airspace at 09:55 hours local time Wednesday, were forced to flee without carrying out any mission by the timely fire of the Islamic Republic's anti-aircraft units stationed in the region.

Prime Minister Describes 28 September Cabinet Session

GF281802 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Within the next few months an experimental census will be conducted in three towns and within a year a comprehensive one will be carried out, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said here after today's cabinet session.

Speaking to reporters, he said the cabinet also discussed plan for creation of a construction force which would employ the conscripts excessive to the routine military service. The plan will be sent to Majlis after working out the details, he said.

The prime minister said the cabinet also reviewed world issues and latest political developments of the country.

Musavi said that among the topics discussed also was imam's admonitions on the ideal Islamic government and the responsibilities of the cabinet and executive organs in establishing social justice for the deprived classes of the society.

On the mobilisation plans for construction, the p.m. said the plan will absorb up to 250,000 who will be trained in farthest reaches of the country particularly in the field of education. [Words indistinct] Nateq Nuri also reported their visits to southern Khuzestan Province upon which a general discussion on the needs of the province ensued.

Foreign Minister Departs for UNGA Session 28 Sep

LD281341 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 83

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, leading an official delegation, left for New York this morning. Before his departure, the foreign minister gave an interview to our correspondent concerning the reasons for his trip.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent's question indistinct]

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you pointed out, the objective of this trip is to participate in the annual session of the UN General Assembly. The session is held in New York once a year and the various countries state their positions to the assembly. Naturally, we will state the positions of the Islamic Republic.

Certainly, the imposed war, an issue which has (?undermined) the rights of our nation in the region and has been imposed on us, and the superpowers' support for Saddam in this aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be discussed. We will continue to state our positions in connection with the war until our rights have been completely restored. The Palestinian issue will also be discussed and we will stress the stand of the Islamic Republic. These (?disasters) have been explained by various officials.

We also will put forth our position on the issue of Afghanistan, disarmament, on problems created for the [word indistinct] people by the superpowers and oppressors of the world in Latin America and other countries of the world; on interference in the affairs of other countries by domineering and interfering forces; on the world's economic problems; and on the inequality that exists between rich and poor countries and the solutions considered viable in light of foreign policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All in all, this session of the General Assembly will provide an opportunity for us to state our positions without expecting speedy results of solutions and their implementation. Unfortunately, international organizations are under the influence of the world powers. We hope that the day will come when the different countries of the world can benefit from the presence [words indistinct] in international organizations. That will be the day when one could hope to find practical solutions to the world's problems. As I mentioned before, the present session is a vehicle for expressing one's views. [end recording]

In connection with the cease-fire in Lebanon, the foreign minister emphasized that a cease-fire established while occupation and interfering forces are present in the country is meaningless and will adversely affect the Lebanese people. The people of Lebanon will not accept this cease-fire. If Israel leaves Lebanon, if America and the other domination-seeking forces end their presence in Lebanon, and if a popular government based on the people's choice is formed, then peace would be desirable, the foreign minister added.

Finance Minister on Cooperation With Industrial States *LD281228 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 28 Sep 83*

did not entail any form of dependency and maintained Iran's interests.

In a talk to IRNA on the occasion of the War Week, started last Thursday, the minister referred to his talks with foreign economic delegations, adding that the objective of such negotiations, especially with Federal Republic of Germany, was to establish a trade balance with those countries.

Asked why the issue of natural gas had not been included in [words indistinct] for the expansion of economy, Namazi said that if suitable conditions were proposed for the sale of natural gas, it would be included in the plan.

But, he stressed, as long as the Soviet Union, as the main client, intended to purchase natural gas at a price lower than international rates, Iran would refuse to sell it.

(?Referring) to the Islamic Republic's foreign loans and its debts, the minister said that the total loans granted by Iran prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution amounted to 7.084 billion dollars of which 4.244 billion dollars had been collected until Sept. 22 this year.

Iran's debts to foreign countries was 4.700 billion dollars of which 2.800 billion dollars had [words indistinct] Namazi added.

(?Pointing) to the Islamic Republic [words indistinct] claims from France, minister of economic affairs and finance said that the former regime granted one-billion-dollars loan to the French Energy Commissariat which was (?now) amounting to 1.600 billion dollars with due interest rates.

He added that the money which was due to Iran was by the French Government institutions while Iran's debts were to French contractors some of whom were still continuing implementation of projects.

Journalist Discusses Role of Press, War With Iraq *GF230832 Karachi Dawn in English 16 Sep 83 p 1*

[Interview in Friday supplement with Musavian Hoseyn, editor of *Tehran Times*, during visit to Pakistan by Muhammad Ali Siddiqui — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] How best, then, is the Iranian press discharging its responsibility? Has it been able to focus the Iranian leadership's attention on the monumental tasks involved in Iran's reconstruction or is it bogged down in petty political considerations and abjectly toeing the official line?

The man to answer this question, for me, was Musavian Hoseyn, editor of *Tehran Times*, who recently went back home after a brief tour of Pakistan.

Musavian's answer was astonishing. He said, "Not only the newspapers but the 35 million people of the Islamic Republic are completely free."

He appeared positive, emotional, emphatic: All this showed in the way he spoke, eyes closed, with a violent jerk of his head to the left.

Before the revolution, he said, there were only "four to five newspapers," all owned by the state or the shah's henchmen. "Now there are nearly 10,000 newspapers and periodicals and all of them are completely free. The government has no reason to interfere with their working because all of them remain true to the revolution."

I told him this was an impossibility. All those "10,000 newspaper and periodicals" could not possibly be run by editors and journalists all possessing computerised minds programmed to Qom.

Musavian conceded that after all it was the government that had to decide who was "for the people and the revolution."

When the revolution came, he said, newspapers and periodicals

mushroomed, "and the government let every paper operate freely. It, however, soon became clear that not all of those who owned and edited newspapers really believed in the revolution or in its Islamic nature. So some newspapers had to be closed down.

"They belonged to parties that were enemies of the revolution. We had given them ample time to mend their ways and conform to the revolutionary line; but when they persisted in their anti-people and anti-revolution stance, the Islamic government had to act. It was, for instance, conclusively proved that those who ran *Mardom* (the Tudeh Party paper) had links with a superpower.

"They confessed they were spying for the Soviet Union for as long as 30 years. So how could the Islamic Republic let such enemies of the revolution operate and threaten the revolution itself?

"The principle was applied to all those newspapers who had links with either of the superpowers. Thus, also to fall in this category were newspapers owned by Mojahidin-e Khalq, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and Komeleh, whom the imam called "American leftists." The principle was the same. Any paper that worked for either of the superpowers could not be allowed to sabotage the revolution. To allow them to operate would be a disservice to freedom. So it was exactly to maintain freedom that such newspapers were closed."

Are there any journalists in jail?

"Not to my knowledge."

What are journalists who were on the staff of *Mardom* now doing?

"They are in prison, not because they are journalists but because they belonged to the Tudeh Party. Many other journalists too, I admit, are in prison, not because they aired dissent as newspapermen, but because they belonged to parties that were in the pay of the superpowers and were opposed to the Islamic revolution."

What about your own paper. Is it completely free?

Musavian replied, "It is completely free. Nobody tells me what to publish and what line to follow. I give you a specific example. I was personally opposed to the Islamic Republic's close relationship with Syria and wrote repeatedly against Hafiz al-Asad's government. Often, the Syrian Government protested unofficially to our government and, in fact, once they demanded my ouster from *Tehran Times*. But I continued to pursue my line. Then one day, to know the government's mind on the issue, I called on President Khamene'i. The president spoke to me for an hour and explained why his government attached so much importance to relations with Syria. I also realised that there was some classified information to which I did not have access and, therefore, some of my comments were not in the national interest. But please note that the president didn't call me; I went to him."

Who owns your paper?

"Five private individuals. One of them, like me, is a university student; the other three are also ordinary people and not big

businessmen as you may think."

What is your circulation?

It is 10,000. But you shouldn't judge our importance from circulation figures. From that point of view, *Keyhan* and *Ette la'at* are the leaders — both sell nearly 70,000 copies — while *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* has a very low circulation, even though it is the most influential paper, being the organ of the Islamic Republic Party."

Our interview had begun on a rather embarrassing note. As I entered his hotel room, Musavian welcomed me while holding a copy of *Dawn*. Sitting down on the sofa he pointed to the top article on *Dawn*'s editorial page, captioned "Iran-Iraq War" and written by Elaine Sciolino.

"Who is this Sciolino?" he asked.

I hadn't the vaguest idea who this Sciolino was, and to cap it all the article didn't carry the *Dawn-N.Y. Times* creditline.

"What is wrong with the article?" I asked.

He read out the offending sentence: "The United States... chose not to censure Israel for shipping American-made weapons to Iran."

He looked at me, "Do you think this is correct?"

I told him I deserved the same question. In fact this was one of the questions on my list and I wondered whether he would like to deny or affirm it.

Musavian said there was no need for Iran to purchase weapons from Israel "because we manufacture 95 percent of our equipment."

I said this could be true of small arms. But surely Iran wasn't manufacturing sophisticated M-1 tanks or Phantoms. The war was entering the fourth year, and could Iran sustain losses without continuous replacements?

Musavian said the Islamic Republic didn't rely on tanks and jets. "It is Iraq which uses tanks to launch attacks; the Islamic Republic relies basically on its manpower. It is people charged with the spirit of Jihad that fight for the revolution. If it was not for such people, how could we have thrown the Iraqis back?

"Do not forget that once the enemy was 800 kilometres inside our territory. Now not only have we cleared the area of Iraqi troops, at places we are inside Iraqi territory. This achievement has been made possible by Pasdaran, volunteers, and others who form 85 percent of our fighting forces.

"Still, you are right we have to get some tanks from abroad. For this, we have two sources: One, we have received about 400 tanks from friendly Arab states — Syria and Libya to be specific — two we purchased in the free market. It is none of our business to know where arm peddlers get their weapons from.

"As for dealing with Israel, that is simply out of the question. One of the first acts of the Islamic Government was to close down the Israeli Embassy, hand over the building to the Palestinians and sever all links with the Zionist state. That policy remains unchanged. If there are any states that really are friendly with the Israelis it is some Arab states. It is they who are not only interested in liberating Palestine and the occupied territory, they want to legalise the existence of the Zionist state by having diplomatic and commercial links with Israel."

But how long did he think the war would continue? It has meant colossal damage, besides causing 100,000 deaths. Why isn't Iran ready for mediation? Muslim peoples the world over, especially Pakistanis, feel pained over this senseless fratricide and a decisive victory for either side appears an impossibility.

Musavian said that during his short tour of this country he realised the depth of feelings in Pakistan. He had no hesitation in saying that "next to Iranians" if there were any people who really loved Islam it is the Pakistanis. But, he asked, "tell me why didn't anybody think of mediation when the enemy troops were 800 kms inside Iran? Why is everybody keen on mediation now when the Islamic forces are 15 km inside Iraq? The fact is that (President) Saddam miscalculated; he attacked with the full help of a superpower to profit from Iran's internal situation and to help counter-revolutionary forces, to bring the royalist regime back to power and to seize our territory for good."

"However, even now, we are ready to end fighting and withdraw our conditions (like a new government in Baghdad and payment of reparations) if Iraq agreed to fight Israel." He claimed Iran had received no reply on this issue.

Musavian said, "Politics is a gamble. When you cease fighting for a just cause, the results are disastrous. Look what happened elsewhere! When the Arabs stopped fighting the Zionists and agreed to talk, Palestine was handed over to the Jews. In more recent times, what has Camp David achieved? And now you are going to Geneva. Why? The fate of Afghanistan lies in the hands of the mujahidin who are giving battle to the Russians; you talk in Geneva and Afghanistan will be lost. Is this what you want Iran to do — talk and lose?"

"Besides, what is the guarantee that Iraq or someone else will not subject Iran to aggression again when Iran is weak?"

But enough of war. Now what about Iran's internal scene? How long will this era of political confusion, partisan vendetta and judicial tyranny continue? The Iranian leadership often seems to forget that the eyes of the whole world and particularly of the Muslim world are on Iran. What happens in Iran and to its Islamic revolution will be of tremendous influence to genuine Islamic movements elsewhere. The model of society that Iran presents to the world will be of immense significance for everybody. Will Iran be able to get out of the mess she is in today or will it continue to dissipate its revolutionary energy in petty vendetta and political blood-letting?

Musavian said the picture of Iran as it emerged in Pakistan was the result of Western propaganda. The international media was in Western hands and they used it as a means of isolating Iran

and subverting its Islamic revolution. But Iran was determined to push ahead with its revolution; and this entailed not only hard work and constructive policies but also vigilance against internal enemies.

"From the very first day of our revolution," he said, "imperialism has been creating problems for us. The Americans, for instance, were against our revolution from the very beginning; first they helped the shah to perpetuate his rule; next, when the revolution finally succeeded, they tried to regroup the shah's forces and stage a counter-revolution; then they worked in the armed forces to bring about a pro-shah coup d'état."

"Similarly, the Soviets are not happy with the revival of Islam in Iran and are doing everything they can to sabotage our revolution. The Tudeh Party was an effective instrument in their hand and naturally we had to act."

"Whether it is the agents of this superpower or that we have to be vigilant to guard our revolution; how can the task of reconstruction be carried forward if we allow Mojahedin-e Khalq to murder revolutionary leaders, including the imam? How can, for instance, we allow the Tudeh Party to work for Soviet interests and try to subvert Iran's sovereignty? This remains our task."

"We are very clear in our mind that imperialism and the Soviet Union will go on opposing Iran so long as we remain true to the Islamic revolution; but the moment we slacken, or deviate from the right path, the two superpowers will vie with one another to win over Iran. This much for our vigilance."

"As for the task of reconstruction, you are not quite correct if you think we have neglected this altogether. In fact, despite the war, in some sectors, like education, much has been achieved. For instance, more schools were opened during the last four years than during the entire reign of the last shah."

"Besides, only 20 percent of the people are involved with the war; the rest, 80 percent, remain busy with the task of reconstruction. If imperialism and communists give us five years, we will make Iran a model state."

Musavian gave me details of what Jihad-e Sazandagi [reconstruction crusade] was doing for Iran, especially in the rural area and how gradually the countryside was changing.

On the larger economic plane and the need for radical measures, Musavian said the impression was wrong that the Majlis was feudal dominated. The majority consisted of ulema, and all of them belonged to lower middle class. The reason why land reforms had been delayed was the complex nature of the issue.

There was, for instance, the holy prophet's saying that anyone could own land. But one has to be careful that this hades was not misused to amass feudal empires and create social imbalance. At the same time, one couldn't rush head-long into radical reforms, because the Iranian ulema realised that land reforms effected in Iran would set a precedent for the entire Muslim world.

In fact, some of Iran's best authorities on Islamic law and Fiqh [jurisprudence], including the martyred Ayatollah Beheshti,

Ayatollah Montazeri and Ayatollah Meshkini, were involved in a study of Iran's land system and had refused to act in a hurry.

The law passed by the Majlis was, in fact, returned to it by Shoora-e-Nigehban (Council of Guardians), because the ulema realised the complexity of the issue. At the moment, the Majlis was seized of the matter and vested interests would never be allowed to obstruct legislation.

Remarkably young for the post he is holding, Musavian was involved in revolutionary activity as a student in the United States. It involved pamphleteering, secret fundraising and publishing, translations, distribution of leaflets and propaganda material, holding press conferences and taking part in demonstrations.